

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of February 5 - February 9, 2007**

1. Workshops on the Gym This Weekend!: Please come to one of the two community workshops on the gym. We want to know what you think about the three major alternatives: Don't build a gym. Build a gym at the rear of the building. Build a gym on the Grant Avenue side of the building. If you believe we should build a gym: What components should be included? How important are they? If borrowing is needed to pay for the gym, what level of borrowing would you be willing to support? New information has been received about the gym options, which range in cost from \$3.2 to \$8.1 million. Check the City's website at www.takomaparkmd.gov for the details, or call Suzanne Ludlow at 301-891-7229. If you can't come to the workshops, please send your comments to gym@takomagov.org.

- **Saturday Workshop**, Feb. 10, 2:30-4:30 pm, Fellowship Hall, Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park, MD. (From New Hampshire Avenue, turn onto Kentland, drive behind church into parking lot, Fellowship Hall doors face Larch Avenue.)

- **Sunday Workshop**, Feb. 11, 2:30-4:30 pm, Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD. (Park in rear or Grant Avenue parking lots for handicapped accessibility.) One group at the Sunday workshop will be conducted in Spanish.

Please arrive between 2:00 and 2:30pm to look at the materials and get settled. The workshops will begin promptly at 2:30 pm! (*Community & Government Liaison*)

2. Training for Life: On February 08, 2007, the following personnel attended CPR training conducted by the Takoma Park Fire Department: Danyelle Gallop, Diana Dean, Kevetta Wilson, Rudy Rice, Roberto Rojas, Doris Rodgers, Mary Harrison, Dail Fuller and Chaplain Pabon. (*Police*)

3. CSAFE: The CSAFE initiative continues to work across the jurisdictional borders of the City of Takoma Park. CSAFE has participated in the following meetings over the past week: on February 05, 2007, we met with a variety of partners to work on the development of a gang awareness training curriculum for parents and community members. The training is expected to be piloted in May 2007. CSAFE is coordinating a parents resource group in the Northwest Park Community. On February 6, Gretchen Hilburger attended a planning meeting in relation to this initiative. On February 8, Mary Kendall and Gretchen Hilburger attended the Northwest Park/Oakview Weed and Seed Steering Committee meeting. Also on February 8, Mary Kendall attended the Action Langley Park meeting. On February 9, Ms. Kendall assisted in the coordination of the Peace Week assembly at Buck Lodge Middle School. (*Police*)

4. Suspects Charged: On February 9, Pvt. Barber stopped a suspicious occupied vehicle in the parking lot of Advanced Auto Parts, 6300 New Hampshire Avenue. Pursuant to his investigation, a handgun was recovered from the vehicle. The following individuals were charged with various weapons charges relating to the weapon: Kevin Hancock, 21 years of age, a D.C. resident, and Deonte Gudger, 21 years of age, also a D.C. resident. These individuals were interviewed by detectives; an investigation is continuing. (*Police*)

5. Vehicle Enforcement (Wards 4, 5, & 6): Officers conducted at least 83 traffic stops this week, 78 of which ended in written citations and 2 vehicle impounds. More than half of the stops were made on New Hampshire, Flower Avenue and University Boulevard, and on feeder streets in those areas. *(Police)*

6. Erie/Flower Commercial Area Master Plan Workshop (Ward 5): The first workshop to review the Master Plan and identify small scale improvements will be held February 22nd in the Columbia Room of Wilkinson Hall at Columbia Union College from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. A pizza dinner will be served midway. Neighborhood residents, businesses and other area stakeholders are invited. The workshop will review the vision and recommendations of the 2000 Master Plan for the Erie/Flower Avenue Commercial area and work with participants to identify and prioritize small scale projects for the neighborhood commercial area. For more information please contact Ilona Blanchard, Senior Planner at ilonab@takomagov.org or (301) 891-7205. *(Housing and Community Development)*

7. Green Building Conference (City-wide): Housing and Community Development is offering a Go Green at Home - Takoma Park Green Building Conference for homeowners and contractors to learn and share information about green buildings. The conference will be on February 18th from 11:00am to 5:00pm. John Spears of Sustainable Design Group, Inc. will be the keynote speaker at 11:00am. There are over twenty additional speakers to choose from and many more topics on subjects ranging from landscaping to finishes. Registration will be at the Recreation Department Office in the Community Center. Cost is \$5, with an optional \$10 for lunch (only if registration is prior to February 12). For more information, go to "Upcoming Events" at www.takomaparkmd.gov or call Ilona Blanchard at (301) 891-7205. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. Maryland Arts Day (City-wide): Staff attended the Maryland Arts Day in Annapolis on Tuesday, February 6, learning about the economic impact of the arts industry and meeting with elected officials to advocate for additional funding for the arts. One of the featured speakers at the event was the past Chairman of the Arts and Humanities Commission, Randy Cohen, who provided an analysis of "Maryland's Creative Economy". *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. New Hampshire Avenue Corridor Redevelopment Initiative (Wards 2, 3, and 6): Staff met with Dr. Devance Walker, Manager of Small Business Services, of Montgomery County's Department of Economic Development to discuss specific projects and programming which could be provided to businesses along the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor. The meeting was a follow-up to an earlier discussion with County staff about how the Department of Economic Development and the City could work together to facilitate the expansion and retention of businesses in the corridor. *(Housing and Community Development)*

10. TONIGHT Opening Reception - February 9 (City-wide): Join the Arts and Humanities Commission as it celebrates the work of local artist Ann Riley on Friday, February 9, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Community Center. Joining the artist will be local musicians playing a range of traditional Celtic, bluegrass, and old-time pieces. Ms. Riley's paintings reflect a life-long passion for animals and nature, and a deep appreciation of the ordinary objects that surround us. The exhibit can be viewed in the

Atrium and Richard Dempsey Memorial Galleries throughout the month of February. The event is free and open to the public. *(Housing and Community Development)*

11. **Poetry Reading - Thursday, February 15 (City-wide):** Takoma Park's Poet Laureate, Don Berger, invites you to hear the work of local poets Martin FitzPatrick and Sheema Kalbasi at this month's poetry Reading. The event will be held on Thursday, February 15 at 7:00pm on the third floor of the Community Center. The event is free and open to the public. *(Housing and Community Development)*

12. **OTBA General Meeting - Crime and Safety Prevention (Wards 1 and 3):** Crime and safety prevention is the focus of this month's Old Takoma Business Association's general meeting. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 13, at 6810 Eastern Avenue with the discussion scheduled to begin at 7:00pm. *(Housing and Community Development Department)*

13. **Snapshots:** February Snapshots is now running on City TV 13, and is available for viewing on the City web site. Features this month include: A Look Back at the Takoma Park Police Department, Poetry Series, Takoma Artists Open Studio and Children's Art in the Community Center. *(CityTV)*

14. **JazzBand:** City TV staff will be taping the Jazz Band Brawl on Sunday, February 11. *(CityTV)*